

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13008 281111Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, RP, US
SUBJECT: MANILA PRESS REPORTS MRS. MARCOS' MEETING WITH
- CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS

REF: STATE 190511

1. ALL THREE MAJOR MANILA DAILIES UTILIZED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER ARTICLE JULY 28, DESCRIBING IN VERY GENERAL TERMS MRS. MARCOS' MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. ARTICLES APPEARED ON ALL THREE FRONT PAGES AND WERE LED BY PARAGRAPH REPORTING SIGNING BY MRS. MARCOS OF \$88 MILLION LOAN BY WORLD BANK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS. REPORTED COMPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS BY WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MACNAMARA REGARDING PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE WERE INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT ARTICLES.

2. PORTIONS DEVOTED TO CONGRESSIONAL MEETING NOTED THAT, WITH SEVERAL EXCEPTIONS, CONGRESSMEN WITH WHOM MRS. MARCOS MET WERE SIGNERS OF OPEN LETTER SENT TO PRESIDENT MARCOS IN APRIL CRITICAL OF PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND EXPRESSING "DISMAY" OVER CONDUCT OF INTERIM BATASANG
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PAMBANSA ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES, "MOST OF THOSE PRESENT" AT MEETING STATED MRS. MARCOS' ATTENDANCE WAS "AN ACT OF COURAGE," AND THAT SHE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS, ASSERTING "WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE." LEAVING MEETING EARLY, REPRESENTATIVE SILVIO CONTE REPORTEDLY SAID "SHE IS BEING ASKED VERY, VERY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE WEALTH OF THE MARCOSES.

SHE ANSWERED THEM ALL, AND SHE IS STILL ANSWERING."
REPRESENTATIVE ZABLOCKI IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE COULD NOT
"IMAGINE ROSALYNN CARTER GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO
ANSWER QUESTIONS IN SUCH A FORUM."

3. COMMENT: ARTICLES GAVE NO SPECIFICS REGARDING
QUESTIONS ASKED OF MRS. MARCOS OR HER REPLIES.
IMPRESSION GAINED FROM LOCAL PRESS WAS OF A BUSINESSLIKE
MEETING IN WHICH MRS. MARCOS STOUTLY DEFENDED CONDUCT
OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND MARCOS FAMILY. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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